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Summary of Alternatives

General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Wisconsin

Lighthouse

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WE WANT YOUR HELP

The National Park Service is preparing a general management plan for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This summary highlights the alternatives that are being considered, including the one preferred by the National Park Service. We want to hear what you think about them. A tear-out response form is included at the back of this pamphlet. Once you've had a chance to read about the alternatives, write down your comments and mail them back to us. The comment period is from June 20 through July 21, 1989. Or you can write to the superintendent at the following address:

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Rt. 1, Box 4
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814.

Public workshops will also be held June 20, 21, and 22. NPS representatives will present the alternatives, answer questions, and record your comments. We hope you can join us on one of the following dates:

June 20, 1989 – 7:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Rooms 305 and 306
2100 S. Beaser Ave.
Ashland, Wisconsin

June 21, 1989 – 7:00 p.m.

Agricultural Hall
Room 125
1450 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

June 22, 1989 – 7:00 p.m.

Earle Brown Continuing Education Center
Room 42
1890 Buford Ave.
Saint Paul Campus, University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

INTRODUCTION

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, on the tip of Bayfield Peninsula in northern Wisconsin, includes 21 of the 22 Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. The lakeshore was established on September 26, 1970, "to conserve and develop for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreational use, and enjoyment of the public" these islands and their related geographic, scenic, and scientific values (Public Law 91-424).

The national lakeshore displays a variety of scenic features, and it records some of the earliest and latest events of geologic history in the lower 48 states. The shorelines have eroded into interesting rock and colorful cliff formations, with caves and arches interspersed between coves and beaches. Lush hardwood forests cover some islands, and wildlife includes a diverse population of nesting and migrating birds, plus a variety of mammals, amphibians, and fish.

Planning Issues and Management Concerns

Several planning issues and management concerns have been identified during this planning effort. They were expressed by various agencies, organizations, and local officials during meetings in April and June 1986, as well as by the lakeshore staff.

Visitor Use and Interpretation – The key issue for visitor use and interpretation is to determine what a quality experience should be for visitors to Apostle Islands and to ensure that is the experience provided. Visitors should be able to get a comprehensive introduction to the lakeshore but at the same time natural and cultural resources must be protected.

Access – Because access to the lakeshore and the islands is difficult, many visitors leave the region without understanding the uniqueness of the Apostle Islands.

Visitors who do not have access to private boats must depend on concession-operated boats to get to the islands. Many people, particularly young families, may not be able to afford the price of these boat tours. One objective is for a concessioner to provide regularly scheduled and inexpensive transportation throughout the islands. The present tour boat system cannot afford to offer a full range of transportation services to the islands. The most cost-effective tours allow for little or no time on any of the islands, yet these tours are not sufficiently profitable to subsidize more costly routes that would provide longer or more frequent stops. Often, the only transportation for visitors who wish to be dropped off to hike or camp is the water taxi service, which is very expensive.

Access to the mainland unit is over several miles of poorly maintained roads, which discourages many visitors and is a source of complaints. The roads are under the jurisdiction of local townships, which do not have the funding to make improvements, and the National Park Service has no authority to make or fund improvements to them.

Resource Management – Wisconsin owns the bottom of Lake Superior throughout the lakeshore, yet existing state and federal regulations are not adequate to protect submerged cultural resources, such as shipwrecks. Protecting underwater resources is made more difficult because appropriate legislation and cooperative agreements are lacking between the National Park Service and the state.

Record high Lake Superior water levels have caused severe shoreline erosion. Both natural and cultural resources – particularly light stations – have been affected. Without measures to mitigate, salvage, or stabilize the affected resources, they could be lost.

The light stations and other sites on the National Register of Historic Places are deteriorating because of the harsh climate and encroaching vegetation.

The productive littoral zone and much of the prime spawning ground for fish such as lake trout, whitefish, and herring lie within or very near the lakeshore boundary. These areas are vital to the lake's aquatic populations, and they must be maintained.

The lakeshore provides nesting habitat for the endangered bald eagle and piping plover. These species are easily disturbed, and they need continued protection.

Visitor use on several islands is adversely affecting sensitive beach vegetation, which anchors the sand and helps reduce erosion. Even though only small areas are being affected, any loss of vegetation can have long-term adverse consequences.

Additional Influences on Planning

Several other factors have affected planning for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. They include the following:

- A development ceiling of $5 million was established by PL 91-424.
- Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted under PL 91-424.
- The regulation of Lake Superior water levels by the International Joint Commission is beyond the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.
- The short summer season, weather variability, limited safe natural docking sites, the remoteness of the islands (especially the outer islands), and commercial fishing must all be considered because they affect the visitor experience.

Wilderness Suitability

The National Park Service routinely evaluates all lands and waters under its jurisdiction for wilderness suitability, in accordance with the Wilderness Act and Department of the Interior and NPS guidelines for wilderness preservation and management. These policies and guidelines define existing and future conditions and uses that are compatible with wilderness designation. The following factors are especially relevant for determining the wilderness suitability of lands in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore:

Historic features: Historic features that are primary visitor attractions, such as light stations, would not be recommended for wilderness designation. But an area could be recommended if it attracts visitors primarily for solitude and unconfined recreation in a primitive setting that may also contain historic features.

Landownership: Only lands where the Park Service or other federal agencies have complete control are eligible for wilderness designation. Lands are not suitable for designation if there is a less-than-fee interest (scenic easements), if the mineral rights have been retained by nonfederal owners, or if there are state or private owners.

Existing developments: Areas are not suitable for wilderness if there is evidence of people and their developments and if such evidence is expected to remain.

Motorized use areas: Areas where aircraft, motorized watercraft, or tools are routinely used for recreational or maintenance purposes are not suitable for wilderness designation unless those uses are eliminated. The Wilderness Act states that where the use of aircraft and motorboats has already become established, "these uses . . . may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary [of the Interior] deems desirable."

This does not mean that previously established motorboat and aircraft uses must be allowed to continue once an area is designated as wilderness, or that water areas where motorboats are allowed must be excluded from wilderness. Any recommendation to allow established aircraft or motorboat use to continue in wilderness would have to be based on a finding that the purpose, character, and manner of such use is suitable to the specific wilderness under consideration.

The NPS boundary at Apostle Islands extends 0.25 mile from the shoreline of each island and the mainland unit, and if wilderness was designated, aircraft or motorboat use could only be restricted within that boundary. Because there is substantial recreational use as well as commercial use of motorboats throughout the national lakeshore, islands otherwise qualified for wilderness would be subject to the sight and sound of motorboats and therefore might not be suitable for wilderness designation.

After considering these factors, the National Park Service has proposed a wilderness study for lands within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore because they may meet the qualifications for wilderness designation. The *General Management Plan* does identify areas that offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Some or all of these lands would be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics, if that was determined to be consistent with providing a diverse mixture of recreational opportunities.

PLANNING ALTERNATIVES

The management concerns and planning issues, as well as the other planning considerations, guided the development of five general management alternatives for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, plus a minimum requirements alternative. Each alternative provides direction for the management of natural and cultural resources, access to mainland facilities and the islands, and visitor use. A major objective is to allow for visitor use that is compatible with the protection of natural and cultural resources. Each alternative would meet that objective.

For each of the alternatives the islands are grouped into four categories, according to the predominant type of visitor use and access:

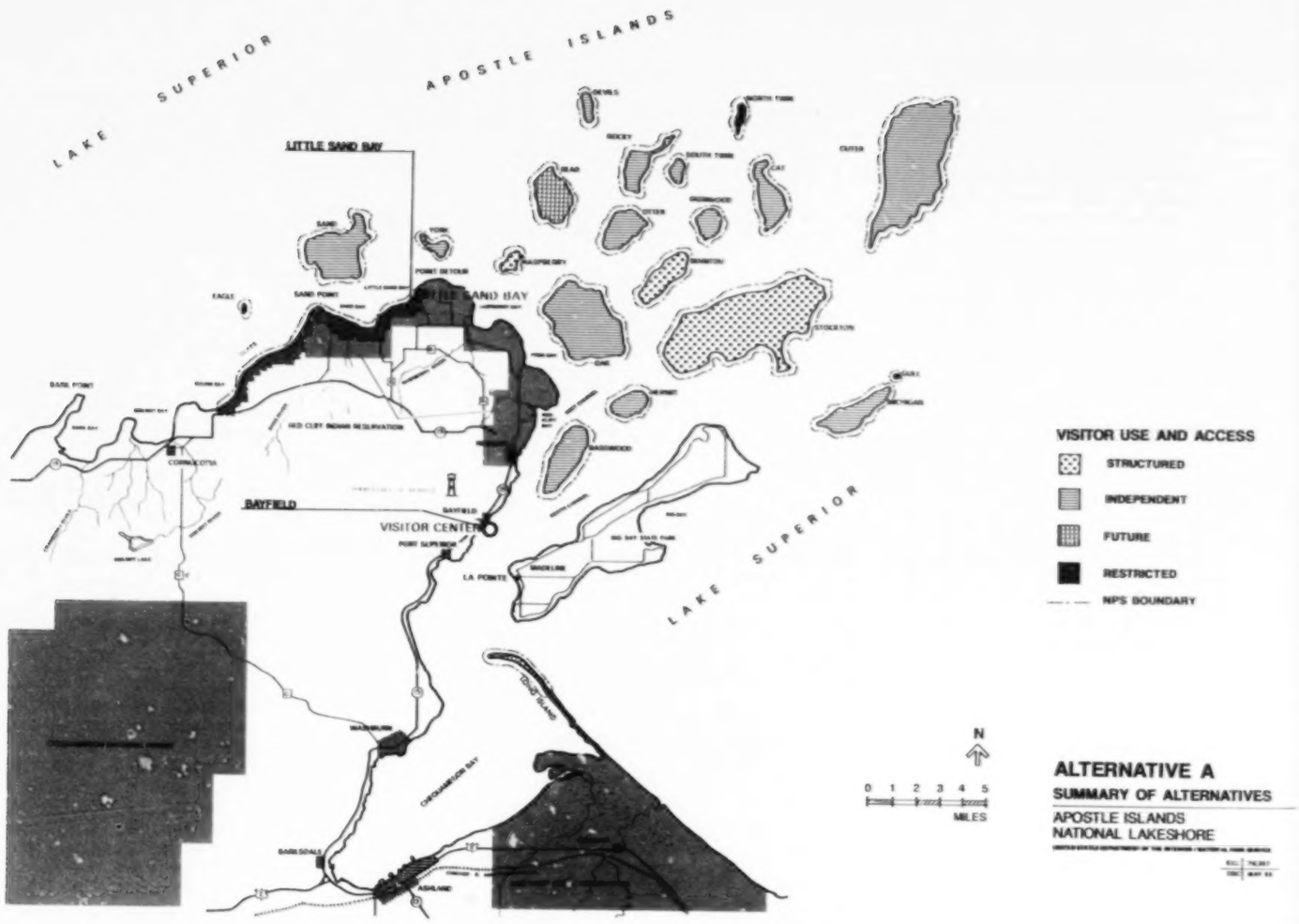
- *Islands with structured use and tour boat access* – those islands that are accessible by tour boat and where there are relatively well-developed facilities and programs (designated campgrounds, visitor contact stations, guided interpretive tours, etc.).
- *Islands with independent access* – those islands to which visitors must provide their own transportation and where there are few or no developed facilities.
- *Islands reserved for future use and access* – those islands that are held in reserve for possible future development until use-and-occupancy agreements expire and basic resource studies have been completed.
- *Islands with restricted use* – those islands to which public access is prohibited because of the sensitive nature of the resources.

Each alternative is briefly described on the following pages, and a map shows generally how the national lakeshore would be managed under that alternative. The minimum requirements alternative is not described in this pamphlet. It would be similar to the NPS-preferred alternative (alternative E) except the level of development on the mainland would be reduced. The alternatives are compared in table 1. The environmental impacts of implementing these alternatives are briefly described in table 2.

The sizes and locations for proposed facilities shown on the alternative maps are approximations that were used for generating cost estimates and for understanding the relative scale of development. Before new facilities were constructed, site planning would be conducted to ensure that facility construction and use would have little or no impact on resources. Operational facilities (ranger stations, employee quar-ters, etc.) on the islands would be limited to those necessary to protect resources and visitors and to provide interpretation. Where new buildings were proposed, construction would incorporate current energy conservation materials and methods, and the structures would be handicap accessible. Before any construction was started, archeological surveys would be conducted to provide necessary information to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects. In areas where the National Park Service does not own mineral rights and where mineral extraction activities would adversely affect the lakeshore's values, then the acquisition of these interests would be pursued.

The reservations of both the Red Cliff and the Bad River bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa are near the national lakeshore, providing an opportunity for the bands and the National Park Service to jointly develop some facilities and to pursue cooperative efforts to protect resources. The National Park Service would pursue such cooperative activities when feasible.

The *General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* includes the detailed management and development actions. It also discusses boundary modifications and land acquisition, lakeshore operations, and details of tour boat operations and costs. Places where the full document will be available for review are listed inside the back cover.


LAKE SUPERIOR
APOSTLE ISLANDS
LITTLE SAND BAY
BAYFIELD
VISITOR CENTER
LA POINTE
MADELINE
BARKSDALE
ASHLAND
LAKE SUPERIOR
VISITOR USE AND ACCESS
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ALTERNATIVE A
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES
APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE

ALTERNATIVE A – EXISTING CONDITIONS (NO ACTION)

Under this alternative existing conditions and present management strategies would be continued. Recreational opportunities – including boating, hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting – would continue to be provided. Limited concessioner-operated tours would be available for visitors without boats.

Most visitors to Apostle Islands would see only the coastal fringe of the islands and mainland because of access difficulties. Visitors would have the opportunity to be briefly exposed to island resources at the Bayfield visitor center and at the Little Sand Bay visitor contact station.

The predominant visitor experience would continue to be the superb sailing among the islands and the opportunities for shoreline camping and picnicking, with little emphasis on mainland use.

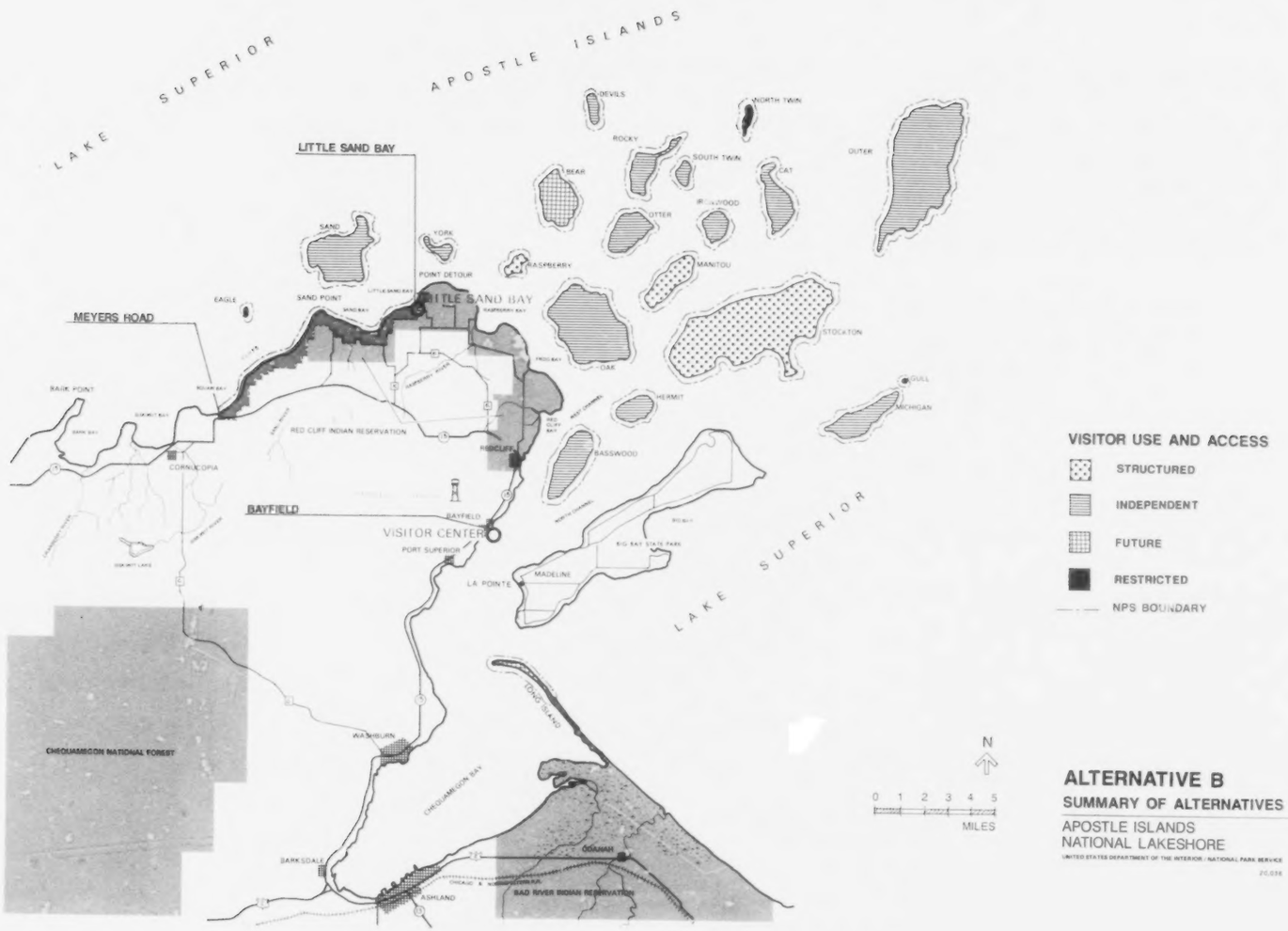
Existing facilities on the mainland under this alternative include the following:

- **Little Sand Bay**

  Existing
  - Visitor contact/ranger station, exhibits
  - Hokenson Brothers Fishery
  - Parking (15 cars)
  - NPS housing
  - Maintenance/storage
  - Marina
  - Access via county roads (dirt, gravel)

- **Bayfield**

  Old Bayfield Courthouse
  - Park headquarters
  - Visitor center, exhibits
  - Restrooms
  - Parking (30 cars)
  - Maintenance/storage
  - Boat concession


LAKE SUPERIOR
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CHEQUAMEGON NATIONAL FOREST
RED CLIFF INDIAN RESERVATION
BAD RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION
DEVILS
NORTH TWIN
ROCKY
SOUTH TWIN
OUTER
BEAR
CAT
IRONWOOD
OTTER
YORK
RASPBERRY
MANITOU
POINT DETOUR
EAGLE
SAND POINT
STOCKTON
OAK
HERMIT
BASSWOOD
RIDGLEY
BARK POINT
CORNUCOPIA
PORT SUPERIOR
LA POINTE
MADELINE
BIG BAY STATE PARK
WASHBURN
CHEQUAMEGON BAY
TOWER ISLAND
BARKSDALE
ASHLAND
OSAWAN
VISITOR USE AND ACCESS
STRUCTURED
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ALTERNATIVE B
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES
APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALTERNATIVE B – PRIMITIVE EMPHASIS

Under alternative B the primary elements of the visitor experience would be solitude, remoteness, and self-reliance, and most of the islands would be managed to enhance those values. Only those facilities needed for resource protection – including some docks, designated campsites, sanitary facilities, and trails – would be provided on the islands. Docks would be used at sites where beach landings cause vegetation loss and erosion to sandspits and beaches. Designated campsites and trails would focus and channel use through or away from sites especially sensitive to trampling. Sanitary facilities would be used where there might be a problem with water contamination or where frequent use might result in resource degradation. Few facilities would be provided solely for visitor convenience.

Selected islands would be accessible to visitors by means of a concessioner-operated tour boat. Most islands would also be accessible by water taxi or privately owned watercraft. The islands accessible by tour boat would have some interpretive facilities, trails, and campsites, which would give those visitors who do not seek a primitive experience the opportunity to get a firsthand understanding of the Apostle Islands. The presence of facilities and personnel on some islands could result in a slightly more structured experience than on the undeveloped islands, yet the overall visitor experience would still be one of remoteness and self-reliance. Interpretation would be important not only in telling the park story, but in promoting visitor understanding and support for management actions necessary for resource protection.

Visitors who could not visit the islands would have the opportunity to learn about them through interpretive programs at the existing Bayfield visitor center, which would include exhibits, audiovisual programs, publications, and personal services. Space limitations at this visitor center preclude extensive interpretation of the park story, but the intent would be to give visitors a sense of the Apostle Islands as a remote and unique environment. Programs would focus on the natural processes that have created and are continuing to shape the islands, and the varying degrees to which humans have affected and have been affected by the islands. Publications for visitors whose primary contact with the lakeshore is only by boat would be available at the Little Sand Bay visitor contact station and local marinas.

Facilities under this alternative would include the following:

- **Little Sand Bay**

  Existing
  Visitor contact/ranger station, exhibits
  Hokenson Brothers Fishery
  Parking (15 cars)
  NPS housing
  Maintenance/storage
  Marina
  Access via county roads (dirt, gravel)

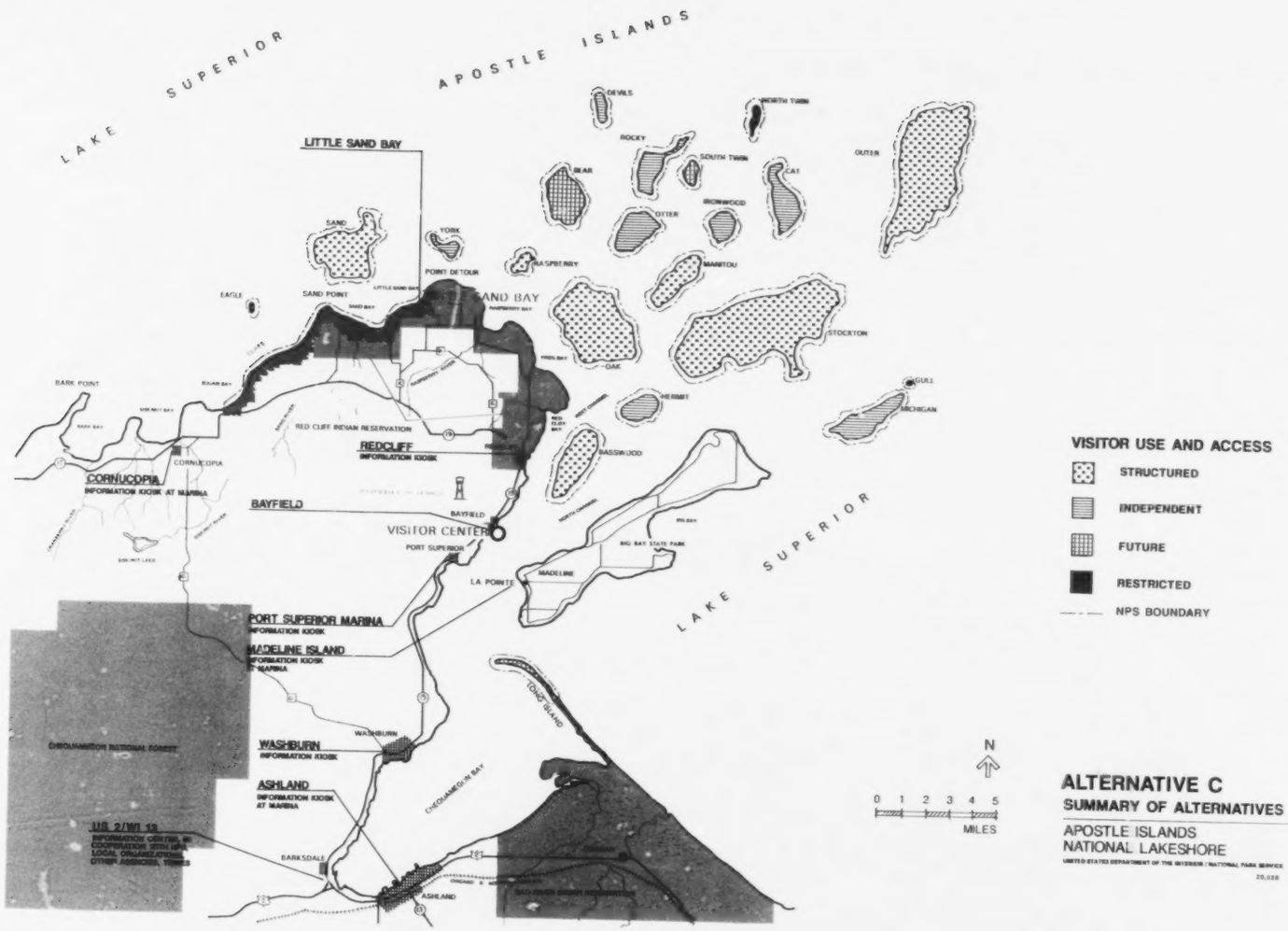
  Proposed
  Small interpretive center

- **Meyers Road**

  Proposed
  Information wayside exhibit
  Parking (15 cars)
  Sandy beach
  Improved road access

- **Bayfield**

  Old Bayfield Courthouse – Existing
  Park headquarters
  Visitor center, exhibits
  Restrooms
  Parking (30 cars)
  Maintenance/storage
  Boat concession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DEVILS
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SAND
YORK
POINT DETOUR
RASPBERRY
MANITOU
EAGLE
SAND POINT
SAND BAY
STOCKTON
OAK
HERMIT
GULL
MICHIGAN
BARK POINT
RED CLIFF INDIAN RESERVATION
REDCLIFF
INFORMATION KIOSK
BASSWOOD
CORNUCOPIA
CORNUCOPIA
INFORMATION KIOSK AT MARINA
BAYFIELD
BAYFIELD
VISITOR CENTER
PORT SUPERIOR
BIG BAY STATE PARK
LA POINTE
MADELINE
LAKE SUPERIOR
PORT SUPERIOR MARINA
INFORMATION KIOSK
MADELINE ISLAND
INFORMATION KIOSK
AT MARINA
TOWER ISLAND
WASHBURN
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CHEQUAMEGON BAY
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ALTERNATIVE C
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES
APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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ALTERNATIVE C – ISLAND EMPHASIS

Under alternative C Apostle Islands National Lakeshore would be managed to encourage visitors to spend time on the islands and to have the opportunity to learn firsthand how unique and isolated they are, and how extensively the resources have been used by humans. Visitors could see and experience for themselves what first attracted people, the changes due to human use, and the subsequent slow recovery process. Visitors would have the opportunity to experience the beauty and tranquillity of the islands as well as the awesome power of Lake Superior.

Bayfield and Little Sand Bay would serve as thresholds for visits to the islands. Convenient and affordable transportation would be available so that visitors without private boats would be assured of opportunities to spend time on the islands. The National Park Service would provide visitor facilities for both day and overnight use on selected islands. Other islands would remain undeveloped except for facilities needed for resource protection. These islands would be available to visitors who have their own means of access and who seek a more challenging experience.

Facilities on the mainland under this alternative would include the following:

- **Little Sand Bay**

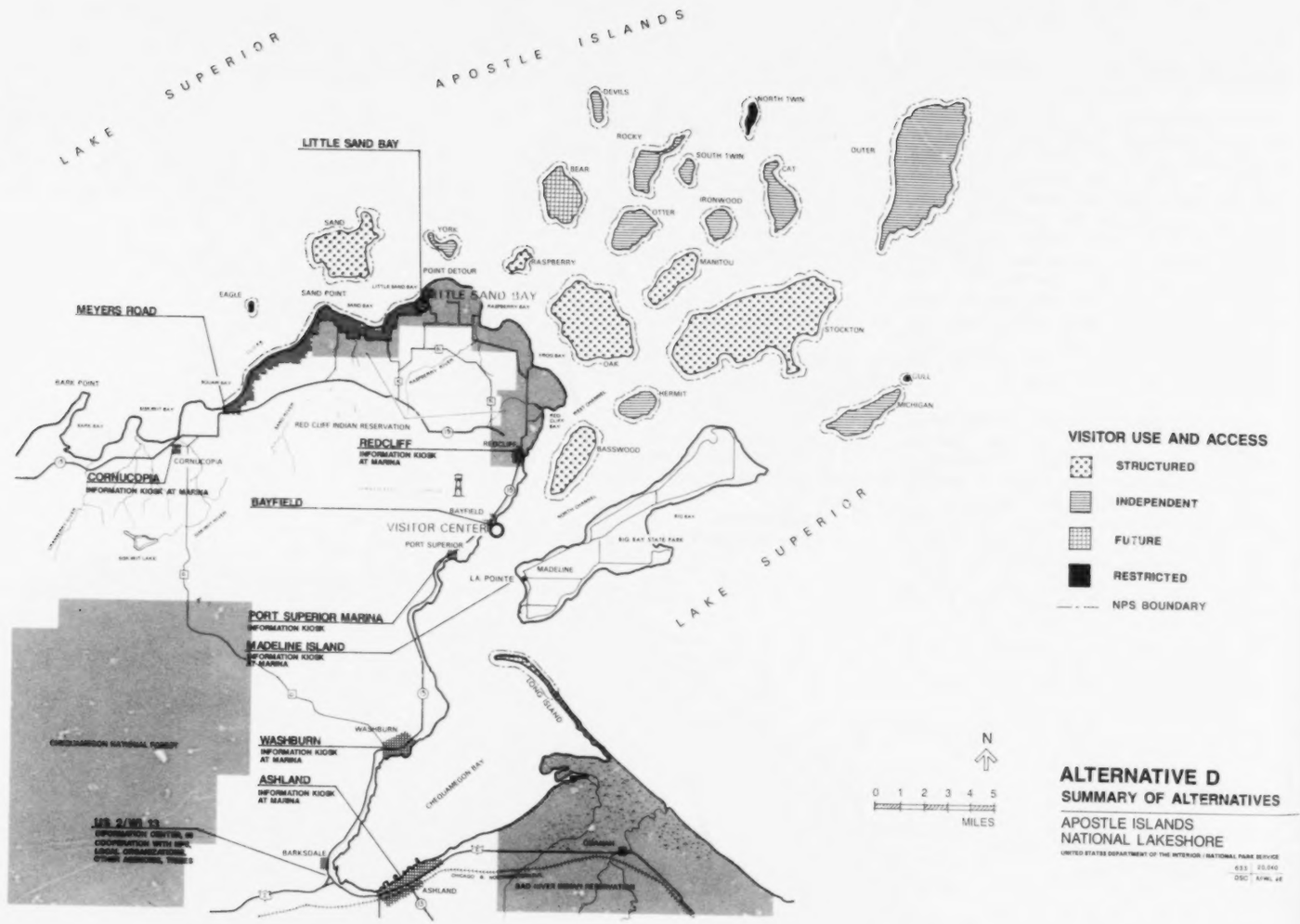
Existing
Hokenson Brothers Fishery
Parking (15 cars)
NPS housing
Maintenance/storage
Marina

Proposed
New visitor contact station, exhibits, administrative offices, restrooms
Self-guided loop trails
Additional parking for 15-20 cars
Boat concession
Improved road access

- **Bayfield**

Old Bayfield Courthouse – Existing
Park headquarters
Visitor center, exhibits
Restrooms
Parking (30 cars)
Maintenance/storage
Boat concession

Proposed
Information kiosk at marina



ALTERNATIVE D
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ALTERNATIVE D – MAINLAND EMPHASIS

Under alternative D the mainland unit of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore would be managed to emphasize overnight and recreational use, and the islands would be primarily managed for use during the day. Opportunities available on the mainland would include various interpretive activities, camping, hiking, boating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, and sight-seeing. Most visitors would see the islands from the shore and perhaps sense them as formidable, mysterious, and romantic.

Convenient and affordable transportation would be available so that visitors without private boats would be assured of opportunities to visit some islands. Visitors who did spend a little time on various islands would be able to see and appreciate the natural resources that first attracted people. Logging camps, quarries, farmsteads, and fishing camps all show how people have used the resources to their advantage, while light stations and shipwrecks show that people also had to be wary of natural forces. Most visitors would not stay overnight on the islands, and therefore they would only have a limited sense of just how isolated and remote the islands are. Those visitors with privately owned watercraft or who took advantage of the water taxi service would be able to stay on the islands as long as they wanted (subject to limited camping facilities and length-of-stay policies) and to experience firsthand the remoteness and solitude.

Mainland facilities under this alternative would include the following:

- **Little Sand Bay**

  Existing
  - Hokenson Brothers Fishery
  - Marina

  Proposed – Phase 1
  - Remodeled visitor contact/ranger station, exhibits, restrooms
  - Campground (50 sites)
  - Shoreline trail (10-12 miles)
  - Relocated NPS housing
  - Relocated maintenance/storage
  - Parking (50 cars)
  - Boat concession
  - Improved road access to all facilities

  Proposed – Phase 2
  - Harbor complex
  - Visitor contact/ranger station, exhibits
  - Restrooms
  - Picnic area (30 sites)
  - Parking (50 cars)

- **Sand Point Road**

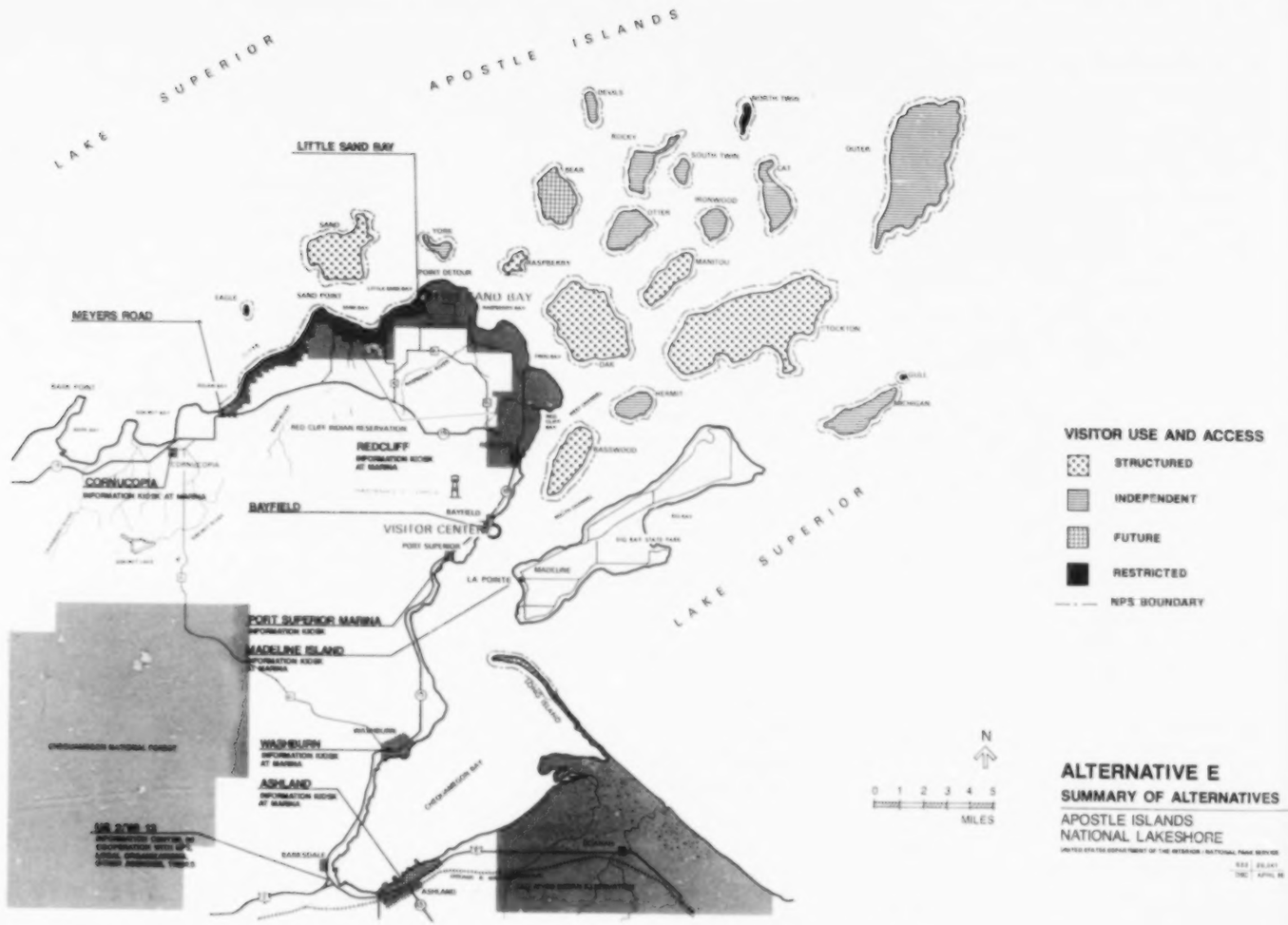
  Proposed
  - Interpretive exhibit
  - Trailhead
  - Parking (10 cars)
  - Improved road access

- **Meyers Road**

  Proposed
  - Visitor information station
  - Picnic area (20 sites)
  - Parking (30-50 cars)
  - Trailhead
  - Improved road access

- **Bayfield**

  Proposed
  - New building for park headquarters and visitor center
  - Interpretive exhibits
  - Restrooms
  - Parking (30 cars)
  - Maintenance/storage
  - Boat concession
  - Information kiosk at marina



ALTERNATIVE E
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES
APOSTLE ISLANDS
NATIONAL LAKESHORE

ALTERNATIVE E – PARKWIDE EMPHASIS (NPS-PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Alternative E is the NPS-preferred alternative for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and in many ways it is a blend of alternatives C and D. Under this alternative visiting the mainland unit would offer an excellent shoreline experience, especially a feeling for the beauty and power of Lake Superior. This experience would be complemented by programs and facilities on the islands that would give visitors opportunities to experience their character, beauty, and remoteness.

Visitors would be able to choose from a broad range of experiences requiring different levels of commitment in terms of time, energy, and expense. A low-commitment experience would rely on public transportation to a selected group of islands and would provide a moderate degree of facilities and services, such as campsites, shelters, sanitary facilities, trails, and interpretive programs. A high-commitment experience would be based on self-reliance, independent transportation, and few, if any, facilities.

In general, the level of park development and the structure of NPS programs would decrease proportionately to the distance from the mainland. The visitor experience on the mainland and inner islands would tend to be assisted to a much greater extent than the more primitive recreational opportunities available on the outer islands.

Campsites on the innermost islands (those within 8.5 miles of a port) would generally have water, tables, grills, tent pads, and a privy. Campsites on the "middle" group of islands (including Rocky, South Twin, and Manitou islands and the western portion of Stockton Island) would have grills, tent pads, and a privy. Campsites on the outermost islands would be primitive, and no amenities would be provided. The only designated sites would be those necessary for resource protection.

New development would be undertaken as warranted by demand. Facilities on the mainland under alternative E would include the following:

- **Little Sand Bay**

  Existing
  Hokenson Brothers Fishery
  Marina

  Proposed – Phase 1
  Remodeled visitor contact/ranger station, exhibits, restrooms
  Campground (50 sites)
  Shoreline trail (10-12 miles)
  Relocated NPS housing
  Relocated maintenance/storage
  Parking (50 cars)
  Boat concession
  Improved road access to all facilities

  Proposed – Phase 2
  Harbor complex
  Interpretive center, exhibits
  Ranger station
  Restrooms
  Picnic area (30 sites)
  Parking (50 cars)

- **Sand Point Road**

  Proposed
  Interpretive exhibit
  Trailhead
  Parking (10 cars)
  Improved road access

- **Meyers Road**

  Proposed
  Visitor information station
  Picnic area (20 sites)
  Trailhead
  Parking (30-50 cars)
  Improved road access

- **Bayfield**

  Old Bayfield Courthouse – Existing
  Park headquarters
  Restrooms
  Maintenance/storage
  Parking (30 cars)
  Boat concession

  Proposed
  Visitor information station, exhibits
  Information kiosk at marina

Table 1: Summary of Major Alternative Actions

	Alternative A – Existing Conditions (No Action)	Alternative B – Primitive Emphasis	Alternative C – Island Emphasis	Alternative D – Mainland Emphasis	Alternative E – Parkwide Emphasis (NPS-Preferred Alternative)
Concept	Continue existing conditions on the mainland and islands.	Emphasize a primitive island experience for visitors, with minimal facility development.	Encourage visitors to spend time on the islands, and develop support programs and facilities.	Provide recreational opportunities on the mainland and day use opportunities on the islands.	Provide recreational opportunities on both the mainland and the islands.
Resource Management					
Natural Resources	Under all alternatives ensure the protection and preservation of natural resources, in accordance with 1986 *Resources Management Plan*. Monitor use of sandspits and take protective actions wherever use is destroying or causing drastic changes in beach grass composition.				
Cultural Resources	Preserve sites on National Register, including all light stations. Preserve and interpret other sites according to their significance. Conduct an underwater resource inventory, but provide no formal protection for submerged resources.	Same as alternative A except develop an agreement with Wisconsin to manage and protect known submerged cultural resources. Complete a special history study of the light stations.	Seek to acquire all lake bottom lands within the lakeshore and protect all submerged cultural resources. Interpret and maintain historic landscapes; interpret and rehabilitate / stabilize historic structures, interpret historic sites. Complete a special history study of the light stations and an underwater resources inventory.	Same as alternative C except acquire only enough lake bottom land to protect known submerged cultural resources, and conduct interpretive tours of selected historic structures.	Same as alternative C, except seek to acquire all lake bottom land in the lakeshore or enter into a cooperative agreement with the state of Wisconsin to ensure the protection of submerged cultural resources.
Access and Circulation					
Land Access	Make no changes in land access routes.	Improve lakeshore access by way of Meyers Road.	Improve lakeshore access at Little Sand Bay.	Improve lakeshore access by way of Meyers Road, Sand Point Road, and at Little Sand Bay.	Same as alternative D but develop Meyers Road and Sand Point Road as all-season access roads.
Water Access	Continue tour boat access to three islands.	Same as alternative A.	Provide tour boat access to seven islands at a moderate passenger fee.	Provide tour boat access to six islands at a moderate passenger fee.	Provide tour boat access to four islands at a moderate passenger fee.
Water Taxi	Continue water taxi service.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.

	Alternative A – Existing Conditions (No Action)	Alternative B – Primitive Emphasis	Alternative C – Island Emphasis	Alternative D – Mainland Emphasis	Alternative E – Parkwide Emphasis (NPS-Preferred Alternative)
Visitor Use and Interpretation					
Mainland	Continue visitor center and headquarters in the old Bayfield County courthouse and visitor contact station at Little Sand Bay.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A except construct a new visitor contact station at Little Sand Bay.	Relocate Bayfield visitor center and headquarters to a facility with a view of the islands. At Little Sand Bay remodel existing visitor contact station, develop a 50-site campground, and construct a 10- to 12-mile shoreline trail; over long term develop new harbor complex, visitor contact/ranger station, and 30-site picnic area. On Meyers Road near Squaw Bay develop a small visitor information station, trailhead, and 20-site picnic area.	Same as alternative D except continue lakeshore headquarters in the old Bayfield County courthouse and over the long term construct a new lakeshore interpretive center in Little Sand Bay to replace the Bayfield visitor center; provide a visitor information station in Bayfield.
Islands with Structured Use and Tour Boat Access; Some Facility Development	Raspberry, Manitou, and Stockton islands.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A plus Sand, Oak, Basswood, and Outer islands.	Same as alternative C except no tour boat access to Outer Island.	Same as alternative D.
Islands with Independent Use and Access; Little Facility Development	Sand, York, Oak, Hermit, Basswood, Michigan, Outer, Cat, Ironwood, Otter, South Twin, Rocky, and Devils islands.	Same as alternative A.	York, Hermit, Michigan, Ironwood, Cat, Otter, Rocky, and Devils islands.	Same as alternative C, plus Outer and South Twin islands.	Same as alternative D, but slightly more development of visitor facilities.
Islands Reserved for Future Use and Development	Bear and Long islands.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
Islands with Restricted Use	Eagle, Gull, and North Twin islands.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Impacts

Impact Topic	Alternative A – Existing Conditions	Alternative B – Primitive Emphasis	Alternative C – Island Emphasis	Alternative D – Mainland Emphasis	Alternative E – Parkwide Emphasis
Natural Resources					
• Vegetation	Continued minor impacts on approximately 238 acres of northern hardwood/hemlock forest; no significant impact on floodplains or wetlands	No net new disturbance of northern hardwood/ hemlock forest; no significant impact on floodplains or wetlands	Net new disturbance of 40 acres of northern hardwood/hemlock forest (0.06% of lakeshore); no significant impact on floodplains or wetlands	Net new disturbance of 49 acres of northern hardwood/hemlock forest (0.07% of lakeshore); no significant impact on floodplains or wetlands	Net new disturbance of 69.5 acres of northern hardwood/hemlock forest (0.1% of lakeshore); no significant impact on floodplains or wetlands
• Wildlife	No new effects	Temporary wildlife displacement during construction and maintenance activities; no impacts on threatened or endangered wildlife species	Similar to alternative B except impacts spread over a greater area	Similar to alternative C, except most mainland impacts concentrated at Little Sand Bay	Similar to alternative D
Cultural Resources	Continued impacts of visitor use at six light stations; potential for vandalism and illegal collection of underwater cultural resources because of no formal protection	Potential for misuse and overuse of cultural resources on three islands because of greater visitor use; four light stations closed to visitors, reducing impacts of wear and tear; better protection of underwater resources because of resource study and agreement with state to allow NPS protection activities	Potential for misuse and overuse of cultural resources on seven islands because of greater visitor use; four light stations closed to visitor use, reducing impacts of wear and tear; improved protection of submerged cultural resources because of NPS acquisition of lake bottom lands and enforcement activities	Similar to alternative C except potential for effects on six islands; improved protection of submerged cultural resources because of NPS acquisition and enforcement activities	Similar to alternative D, except improved protection of submerged cultural resources because of NPS acquisition or agreement with state to allow NPS protection activities
Visitor Use	No change in visitor use; tour boat access limited to three islands; public access to other islands difficult and expensive; no change in interpretive programs	Same as alternative A except improved visitor introduction to lakeshore because of expanded facilities at Bayfield	Better distribution of visitor use among islands, so little crowding or overuse; tour boat access provided to seven islands, increasing visitor opportunities	Similar to alternative C except tour boat access provided to six islands; more year-round activities on mainland, especially at Little Sand Bay	Similar to alternative D

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1989—673-038/80,026 REGION NO. 6

RESPONSE SHEET

We want your comments! After you fill in this sheet, simply fold, tape at the bottom, and drop in the mail. No postage is needed. Please return by July 21, 1989.

1. Overall, I think alternative _____ best meets the future needs of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore because _____

2. I would make the following changes in the alternative I prefer (feel free to substitute portions of other alternatives to improve your preferred alternative; to help you respond, we have listed the major issues below):

Access: _____

Visitor Use and Interpretation: _____

Resource Management: _____

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LOCATION OF GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The full *General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore will be available at the following locations for review.

Bayfield Public Library
37 North Broad
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

Vaughn Public Library
502 West Second Street
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

Washburn Public Library
307 Washington Avenue
Washburn, Wisconsin 54891

Forestry Library
203 Green Hall
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Steenbock Library
550 Babcock Drive
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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